


Hello, my Name is Shane Gabriel. I am here today in opposition of House Bill 191, the regulating and prohibiting of Pit Bull breeds. I do not believe that the breed of Pit Bull or any other breed should be profiled and singled out for elimination from our state for any reason. I have heard of dog attacks upon other dogs and people too. This is NOT dog breed specific. All types of dogs from the smallest Chihuahua to the largest English Mastiff can have dog tendencies, to growl, bark, bite, chase cars, other dogs and people when not properly controlled by their owners. I do not believe that the breed or responsible owners of these dogs should be punished for other owner's incapability to care for and control their dogs properly.

In my neighborhood it seems almost a rule that each household have 2 two dogs. I and my wife also have two dogs, a pit-bull named Piggy and a boxer named Girl. Both of which are registered, have current shots and have been taken to several 8 week long dog obedience classes put on right here in Helena at the Fairgrounds. We have an enclosed back-yard and also an additional separate kennel inside the backyard just in case someone randomly invites themselves in to the back. My wife and I are very responsible owners. And since we do not have children, Piggy and Girl are our family, not just dogs. Both Piggy and Girl are fantastic around other people, children and infants. If Piggy had it his way, he would play all day and then curl up and go to sleep in your lap as soon as he wore you out.

The proposed bill also states that "Grandfather Claused" dogs would have to be muzzled when outside of the owners premise. I also disagree with this. We take Piggy into Murdock's, the pet store, the vet's office, out for walks and several other places without a muzzle, and he behaves wonderfully. Muzzles can induce insecurities in dogs and can lead them to be anxious and nervous which is not good for a dog. I would also like to state that I am not in favor of killing or euthanizing a dog based SOLEY on its breed. As a suggestion to the committee, if dog control is a problem that needs to be addressed, I would like to propose holding dog owners more responsible and accountable for the care and actions of their dogs and not hunt for a specific breed as being solely responsible for any dog issues. Thank you for your time.

 253-370-6064